Medical Aid to accident victims on National Highways

4030. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road accidents in India cover 60,000 deaths per year and leave about 2,00,000 citizens seriously injured;

(b) whether Government have devised an ambitious programme to reduce such fatalities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are arranging facilities for rushing medical aid to accident sites on all highways and major roads;

(d) whether State Governments have been involved in this programme;

(e) whether Government sanctioned any pilot scheme in road safety to Andhra Pradesh in 1994-95; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government have been taking regularly all possible steps to reduce such fatalities, Moreover, the Government have formulated a National Road Safety Policy, which apart from many other recommendations, also envisages steps to bring down the number of fatalities in road accidents to 25000 and to reduce the number of accidents to 2 lacs by the year 2001 A.D.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Government has provided financial assistance to some States to procure "pick and carry" cranes and ambulances to remove accidental/ broken down vehicles and road accidents victims from the sites of accidents on National highways.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, one set of Vehicle Testing Equipment has been allotted to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Agreement with contractors for repairing National Highways

4031. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government take guarantee for the particular period while entering into an agreement with the contractors for repairing National Highways;

(b) if so, what type of conditions Government are putting over them;

(c) whether Government force them to observe it;

(d) whether it is a fact that in Maharashtra, Mumbai-Pune National Highway, Mumbai-Nasik National Highway and Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway are spoilt every year during the first monsoon;

(e) if so, what are the reasons behind it;

(f) what cautions Governments are taking to avoid such things;

(g) by when Government are going to start constructing new roads;

(h) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to fix responsibility;

(i) whether Government are aware that Shiv Sena has started to maintain the roads voluntarily; and

(j) if so, what action Government have taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The agreement for the road works includes the maintenance and removal of defects for one monsoon period in case of large bitumenous works. The contractors are required to implement the same before the final bills are settled.

(d) to (f) National Highways do get damaged to some extent due to monsoon, heavy traffic. All such damages are repaired and the National Highways are kept traffic worthy within available funds.

(g) and (h) There is no proposal for construction of any new National Highway at present.

(i) No, Sir.

(j) Does not arise.